



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: X Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: June 17 and 30, 1999
Date of Last Inspection: May 26, 1999

Mine Name: Gordon Creek Mines 2, 7 & 8 County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/016

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Mountain Coal Company

Business Address: P.O. Box 591 Somerset, Colorado 81434

Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other

State Official(s): David Darby

Company Official(s): Chris Hansen, Dan Guy

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Clear, cool

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 0 Regraded- 17.2 Seeded- 17.2 Bonded- 17.2

Increased/Decreased: Permitted- Disturbed- Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-

Status: Exploration/ X Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture

Reclamation (Phase I/ Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) <u> </u> (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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DATE OF INSPECTION: June 17 and 30, 1999

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

During the last two site visits at the Gordon Creek #2 mine on June 17 during a channel review and June 29, 1999 acts of trespass by third parties had occurred. On June 17, 1999, Dan Guy, Chris Hansen and I were at the Gordon Creek #2 minesite and noticed the boulders, which had been placed to block the access road, had been moved. The wire fence had been cut and also been cut and at least one vehicle had driven onto the site, up to the end of the #2 Mine pad. Cattle had crossed the reclaimed property.

June 17, 1999

Chris Hansen, Dan Guy and I met on site on June 17, 1999 to review the dimensions of the undisturbed channels on the #2 Mine pad. Channel SD-5 was measured during the last inspection. The measurements revealed a shallower channel than the cross-sections in the as-built designs submitted May 26, 1999. Also, the calculations employed by the Division to size the channel incorporates a Curve Number (CN) rated under Antecedent Moisture Condition III (NEH-4), which reflects saturated soil conditions.

Condition III calculations were used, because the reclamation period is a time when operations are visited less frequently, and immediate response to deteriorating surface conditions, caused by storms, are less likely to transpire.

Dan and I walked up on site and looked at the channels. Dan stated that his son, David, a member of his survey crew, measure the channels the day before. David's measurements showed that Channel SD-6 was shallower than previously measured. Some of the channel had filled with sediment. My concerns still remained with Channel SD-5.

As Dan and I walked up the minesite we identified surface disturbances as a result of trespass activities. Cattle had been herded across the property and a vehicle had been driven up the grade to the upper end of the #2 Mine pad. The trespass activities by the cattle and motorist caused sufficient damage to require mitigation repairs with a backhoe. During this visit we discussed remedial measures to abate the disturbance and protect the property from future infractions.

Dan, Chris and I met at the access gate and discussed the problems with the channels and trespass issues. Dan stated that a backhoe was needed to rework the channels. He also suggested that mitigation work to deal with the trespass damage could be done by the backhoe at the same time.

We compiled a list of projects that needed repairs or modifications. I told Dan to submit a request identifying the changes to be made. A list of the changes on the site are as follows:

1. Excavate or build up the embankment on Channel SD-5.
2. Regrade the areas where ruts were left by the vehicle.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM/Denver), Chris Hansen (CFC), Dan Guy (Blackhawk Engineering)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: David Darby

David Darby #47 Date: July 15, 1999

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3. Build a berm or cut a small diversion across the slope by the lower fence that directs runoff into the upper sedimentation pond cell.
4. Replace the boulders that were moved by the trespasser to gain access.
5. Repair the fence around the property.
6. Continue to treat the thistle growing on the property.
7. Remove the remaining mining debris that was missed on previous cleanup, such as wires, brattice, a crushed culvert and a crushed gabion basket.
8. Clean and repair rock weir structures along the main access road.

Changes 1, 6, 7 and 8 were not changes required as a result of the trespass, but was needed as ongoing reclamation maintenance.

June 30, 1999

During a lease relinquishment of U- 8319, Track #3, review on June 30, 1999, cattle were again witnessed grazing on the #2 minesite by Dan and me. We rounded up 26 head and herded them off the permit area. Reconstruction of the requirements listed above had no begun.

2. Signs and Markers

The signs were intact on the main entry fence identifying the minesite and "No Trespassing " status.

3. Topsoil

There appeared no need to replace topsoil in any areas.

4. Hydrologic Balance

The weather has been warm and dry. The lower two cells of the sedimentation pond were dry and the upper cell was only about one quarter full. I hiked up to the # 7 and # 8 reclaimed minesites. All channels appeared intact. Water was seeping from the springs at the #7 mine, mouth of Slide Canyon and above Jacob's Pond. No water was discharging from Jacob's pond.

a. Sediment Pond and Impoundments

The sedimentation pond was empty in the lower and middle cells and about half full in the upper cell, however no water was flowing into the pond. It appeared clear indicating no current erosion. The embankments appeared intact. Motorists use the embankment of the second cell as a turn-around and vegetation will not grow where it occurs. Any runoff from the pond embankments would be captured and treated in via the rock weirs.

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